The total consolidated loss suffered by closing of Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project Units on account of above is approximately Rs. 363.13 crores since the date of commissioning.

(c) The following steps have been taken to deal with the heavy silt content in river Satluj:—

(i) Units are closed when the silt level exceed specified/permissible limits as prescribed in the operation manual of the power station;

(ii) The underwater parts have been coated with Tungsten Carbide Coating by High Velocity Oxygen Fuel (HVOF);

(iii) Strict implementation of Catchment Area Treatment Plant amounting to Rs. 29.75 crores through Himachal Pradesh State Forest Department;

(iv) The treatment of identified Nallahs contributing high content of silt with quartz in the river water upstream of dam axis;

(v) Prevention of dumping of muck in the Satluj river;

(vi) Weekly flushing of reservoir at Nathpa Dam to reduce the silt load.

Commencing of Tadadi Thermal Power Project in Uttar Kannada district

667. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Ultra Mega Thermal Power Project planned at Tadadi in Uttar Karnada district would commence;

(b) whether Government have asked the State Government to begin the works by January, 2007;

(c) whether the State Government has obtained clearance from the Centre; and

(d) whether there is any proposal with the Central to set up a separate company to manage thermal power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Power through Finance Corporation has taken an initiative for facilitating the development of a few 4,000 MW Ultra Mega

Power Projects (UMPP) under tariff based competitive bidding route envisaged under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 through project specific shell companies. Central Electricity Authority has identified a coastal site Tadri in Uttar Kannada as one of the potential site for development of Ultra Mega Projects. The project is currently under hold in want of certain clarifications from the State Government.

Fall in rural electrification figures

668. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of States claiming 100 per cent rural electrification has fallen from 11 in 1991 to just 5 in 2005, according to the latest Central Electricity Authority data;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the national average of village electrification is down to 74 per cent of inhabited villages, from a much higher 85 per cent way back in 1991; and

(c) if so, whether the tumble in rural electrification figures is attributed to the recently revision in the criterion for declaring a village electrified?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. As reported by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), only 5 States namely Goa, Delhi, Haryana, Kerala and Punjab have achieved 100% village electrification as against earlier 11 States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu corresponding to inhabited villages as per 1991 census.

(b) Yes, Sir. National average of village electrification as on March 2006 has come down to 73.8% from the earlier 85% corresponding to inhabited villages as per 1991 census.

(c) The revision in the number of States claiming 100% rural electrification as also National average of village electrification may be attributed to:

(i) Adoption of new definition for declaring village as electrified with effect from 2004-05;